



Doug Tripp <doug.tripp@lacity.org>

Fwd: FW: Campaign to Oppose Street Vending Legalization

2 messages

Millie J. Jones <millie.jones@lacity.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2015 at 4:08 PM

To: Doug Tripp <doug.tripp@lacity.org>, Semee Park <semee.park@lacity.org>

Doug,

Please forward to other staff and discuss with the Councilman, as you see fit.

Thank you,

**Millie Jones, Field Deputy**

Councilmember Mitchell Englander

Los Angeles City Councilmember President Pro Tempore
Twelfth DistrictCommunity Service Center: **818-882-1212**City Hall: **213-473-7012**

e: Councilmember.Englander@lacity.org | w: www.cd12.org

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce /Julie** <email@granadachamber.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 12:32 PM

Subject: FW: Campaign to Oppose Street Vending Legalization

To: Brad Klimovitch <[REDACTED]>, Despina Crassa <[REDACTED]>, Jerry Askew <[REDACTED]>, Laine Caspi <[REDACTED]>, Laura Clemens <[REDACTED]>, Lillian Goodman <[REDACTED]>, Linda Tcimpidas <[REDACTED]>, Mark Freedman <[REDACTED]>, Mike Kabo <[REDACTED]>, Paul Nelson <[REDACTED]>, Richard Fisk <[REDACTED]>, Sal Moncibais <[REDACTED]>, Alison Robinson <[REDACTED]>, Andre Hollings <[REDACTED]>, Bonnie Bursk <[REDACTED]>, Dave Beauvais <[REDACTED]>, Francesca Vega <[REDACTED]>, John Seletos <[REDACTED]>, "Marian E. Jocz" <[REDACTED]>, Megan Cottier <megan.cottier@lacity.org>, Millie Jones <[REDACTED]>, "Rick Lundgren (Personal)" <[REDACTED]>, Rosalba Gonzalez <[REDACTED]>, Scott Abrams <[REDACTED]>

Julie Sparti

Executive Director

Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce

818-368-3235 Office

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From: Leon Cain [mailto:leon@rodriguezstrategies.com]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 17:11
To: email@granadachamber.com
Subject: Campaign to Oppose Street Vending Legalization

Hi,

My name is Leon and I work with the Coalition to Save Small Business, a coalition of business improvement districts, small businesses and neighborhood groups opposed to a proposal to legalize street vending throughout Los Angeles. Over 150 San Fernando Valley businesses have joined our coalition, and we have consistently heard from stakeholders throughout the region that sidewalk vending is not right for the Valley.

It would be incredibly impactful if the Granada Hills Chamber were to take a position in opposition of the proposal to legalize street vending. Do you have time to do a short call sometime next week? I'd love to tell you more about our efforts and hear more about your endorsement process.

Thanks,

Leon

STREET VENDING INFO

Attached:

- Coalition one-pager
- Coalition FAQ
- Neighborhood FAQ
- 10 Reasons to Regulate/Opt-In
- Petition (important to have signed forms for every member of our coalition – whether business organization, group or individuals)

City Materials:

- **City Website:** <http://sidewalkvending.lacity.org/>
- **Motion:** CLA Analysis and motion, Council File: 13-1493
- **Timeline:** The CLA's office held community meetings in May and June. They will likely move forward drafting an ordinance this July. And, legislation will likely be before the Economic Development Committee in August/September (double referred to Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee)






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Leon Cain

Rodriguez Strategies

c: 8184003612| leon@rodriguezstrategies.com

5 attachments

-  **Regulation One pager FINAL 6-17-15.pdf**
268K
-  **Top 10 Reasons to Regulate Street Vending FINAL 6-17-15.pdf**
203K
-  **Vending FAQ FINAL 6-17-15.pdf**
141K
-  **Vending Neighborhood FAQ 5.1.15.pdf**
54K
-  **Vending Petition 3.31.15.pdf**
45K

Doug Tripp <doug.tripp@lacity.org>
To: "Millie J. Jones" <millie.jones@lacity.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2015 at 9:28 AM

Thanks.

**Doug Tripp**

Chief Legislative Deputy
Councilmember Mitchell Englander
Los Angeles City Councilmember President Pro Tempore
Twelfth District
City Hall: 213-473-7012
Community Service Center: 818-882-1212
e: Councilmember.Englander@lacity.org | w: www.cd12.org

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Coalition To Save Small Business

Other Cities Regulate Street Vending Why Can't Los Angeles?

Currently, there are more than 50,000 unlicensed street vendors in Los Angeles. Illegal street vendors don't have to pay rent, utilities, taxes or minimum wage. They don't have to secure the permits or undergo the inspections that brick and mortar businesses do. As a result, they can undercut small businesses on prices and steal their customers. It is shameful that Los Angeles is allowing this unfair competition because it threatens the future of small business owners who work hard and play by the rules.

The Coalition to Save Small Business is composed of more than 700 small businesses, most of them Mom and Pop operations and many of them owned by immigrants. They are working with the Business Improvement Districts and neighborhood groups to regulate out-of-control street vending because it threatens their ability to make a living for their families.

Several cities surrounding Los Angeles and around the country have adopted regulations that help create a level playing field for small business. Is Los Angeles open to similar regulations and is it prepared to commit the necessary funds and infrastructure to enforce its regulations? Among these regulations are:

- **Portland:** Street vendors need to gain written permission from the store owner if they are going to sell their wares in front of the establishment. It is unlikely in this scenario that the street vendor will be selling anything that competes with store. Street vendors are also required to have a certificate of liability insurance.
- **San Francisco:** Street vending is banned in residential areas, and street vendors must be a certain distance from restaurants and other facilities. Vendors must have written verification that they have access to a restroom within 200 feet of their location
- **Chicago:** Street vendors can only sell whole, uncut fruits and vegetables. Vendors are not allowed to handle or prepare any food. This regulation promotes food safety and healthy eating.
- **New York:** Street vendor permits are capped at 3,000 and merchandise vendor permits are capped at 853. (Los Angeles currently has 50,000 unregulated street vendors.)

Full funding of street vending regulation enforcement is needed to ensure all businesses can thrive. Past efforts to create street vending districts failed, largely due to a lack of enforcement against street vendors who violated the rules.

The City must allocate resources to enforce any sidewalk and park vending regulations and must ensure the County devotes sufficient resources to food safety enforcement, as well. The City's operation and enforcement administration must be fully budgeted. The City must create a schedule of fines and penalties for illegal vending. The fees to operate a sidewalk and park vending program should be full cost recovery.

Working together, we can ensure the city's businesses can thrive and the public's safety can be protected.

For more information: Phone: 323-553-1275 Email: SaveSmallBusinessLA@Gmail.com Visit: facebook.com/SaveSmallBusinessLA

The Coalition to Save Small Business is composed of Los Angeles businesses, community members, neighborhood groups and other individuals and organizations that seek to regulate street vending and ensure those regulations are enforced.

Coalition To Save Small Business

Top 10 Reasons to Regulate Street Vendors

1. UNLICENSED STREET VENDING UNDERCUTS SMALL MOM AND POP STORE OWNERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE IMMIGRANTS THEMSELVES – BUT WHO FOLLOW THE LAW

Currently, there are more than 50,000 unlicensed street vendors in Los Angeles. Illegal street vendors don't have to pay rent, utilities, taxes or minimum wage. They don't have to secure the permits or undergo the inspections that brick and mortar businesses do. As a result, they can undercut small businesses on prices and steal their customers. It is shameful that Los Angeles is allowing this unfair competition because it threatens the future of small business owners who work hard and play by the rules.

2. HURTS SMALL BUSINESSES AND LEADS TO VACANT STOREFRONTS

Street vending sets back the revitalization of Los Angeles and its neighborhoods. We want vibrant neighborhoods and cities with strong, lasting businesses. We do not want vacant storefronts caused by small businesses not being able to compete price-wise with street vendors who have no overhead, pay no business taxes and are unlicensed.

3. MORE THAN 700 SMALL BUSINESSES IN L.A. WANT STREET VENDING REGULATED

These small business owners have joined The Coalition to Save Small Business to seek stricter regulation of street vending. They are working with the Business Improvement Districts and neighborhood groups to regulate out-of-control street vending because it threatens their ability to make a living for their families.

4. SMALL BUSINESSES NEED OUR SUPPORT

One in every two small businesses closes its doors in the first five years – often leaving vacant storefronts and employees out of work. They deserve a level playing field so they can survive and thrive.

5. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE ESSENTIAL TO JOB CREATION

Small businesses make up 99.2% of employer firms in California. They employ half the state's private workforce. Nationwide, they account for almost two out of every three net new private sector jobs.

6. SMALL BUSINESSES STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

Every storefront business is a small miracle. Where there used to be boarded up buildings in neighborhoods like Downtown, Boyle Heights and Echo Park, small businesses have created opportunities and jobs. They are integral to the continued growth of our cities and communities.

7. OTHER CITIES REGULATE STREET VENDING. WHY CAN'T L.A.?

Several cities surrounding Los Angeles and around the country have adopted regulations that create a level playing field for small business. Is Los Angeles open to similar regulations and is it prepared to commit the necessary funds and infrastructure to enforce its regulations?

- **Portland:** Street vendors need to gain written permission from the store owner if they are going to sell their wares in front of the establishment. It is unlikely in this scenario that the street vendor will be selling anything that competes with store. Street vendors are also required to have a certificate of liability insurance.
- **San Francisco:** Street vending is banned in residential areas.
- **Chicago:** Street vendors in this city can only sell whole, uncut fruits and vegetables. Vendors are not allowed to handle or prepare any food. This regulation promotes increased food safety and healthy eating.
- **New York:** Street vendor permits are capped at 3,000 and merchandise vendor permits are capped at 853.

8. FOOD SAFETY

No inspections, no licenses and no guarantee of safety, cleanliness or quality: Who's responsible if someone gets salmonella or some other form of food poisoning? The public should be protected, and customers should know the food they're purchasing is safe.

9. GARBAGE AND WASTE

Who's responsible for cleaning up the sidewalks at the end of each day? Trash, grease and waste: The responsibility for cleanup falls on the store owner, the City or the district Business Improvement District. Street vendors bear no responsibility or financial burden for cleaning up their places or areas of business.

10. ILLEGAL MERCHANDISE

Without licenses and regulation, street vendors often sell illegal products, such as counterfeit purses, watches and clothing, in addition to illegal pets (such as baby turtles, snakes, etc.) and pirated DVDs – which hurt the film industry and the small businesses that deal in those wares.

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Coalition To Save Small Business

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LOS ANGELES STREET VENDING ORDINANCE

➡ WHAT WOULD THIS PROPOSAL DO?

The Los Angeles City Council is considering a proposal to legalize sidewalk vending across the city, which would lead to the legalization of an unlimited number of food and merchandise street vendors. Already, more than 50,000 street vendors operate illegally in Los Angeles. The proposed ordinance would allow vendors to operate wherever, whenever and however they see fit without any consideration of their impact on neighborhoods, small business and business districts.

➡ IS THE POLICY FAIR TO SMALL BUSINESS?

NO – Small businesses pay for rent, utilities, property taxes and other costs. They often must obtain permits and undergo inspections. Unlicensed and unregulated street vendors don't have those costs or obligations. Many small businesses also pay special assessments to help fund services, like trash collection, in commercial districts. With little overhead, street vendors can undercut small businesses' prices and steal their customers. The proposal would not create a level playing field for small business. Vendors would be able to continue to set up shop on city sidewalks without paying their fair share.

➡ WOULD THIS PROPOSAL PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH?

NO – The County of Los Angeles has highlighted numerous public health problems associated with illegal street vending, including the lack of potable water for hand washing, potentially hazardous food held at unsafe temperatures and unavailability of restrooms for food handlers. County health officials do not have the capacity to adequately regulate street food vendors. A 2014 *LA Times* investigation found that 40% of mobile food trucks and carts did not undergo a single County health inspection over a three-year period.

➡ DOES THE CITY HAVE THE RESOURCES TO REGULATE STREET VENDING?

NO – The City would have to fully fund enforcement of street vending regulations. Otherwise, there is simply no way to enforce regulations for an unlimited number of vendors. This proposal does not explain how the City would regulate existing or new vendors, or how it would pay for a new regulatory framework.

➡ IS UNREGULATED STREET VENDING AFFECTING OUR SIDEWALKS?

YES – Street vending has proven to be a disruptive force on our city's sidewalks. Vendors' carts often crowd sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to walk onto busy streets to get around them. When street vending leads to injury or property destruction, surrounding businesses or the City itself could be held liable for damages.

➡ WOULD THE PROPOSAL LIMIT STREET VENDORS' HOURS OF OPERATION?

NO – Vendors could operate around the clock in residential neighborhoods and business districts.

➡ WOULD THE PROPOSAL LIMIT WHAT STREET VENDORS CAN SELL AND WHERE?

NO – All food and merchandise sales would be permitted, including in front of brick and mortar businesses that offer the same products.

Coalition To Save Our Neighborhoods

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

➡ **WOULD THE POLICY LIMIT THE NUMBER OF VENDORS WHO COULD OPERATE WITHIN A GIVEN NEIGHBORHOOD OR RESIDENTIAL AREA?**

NO — under the proposal an unlimited number of vendors would be granted the ability to operate wherever they choose to set up, anywhere in Los Angeles.

➡ **WOULD THERE BE RESTRICTIONS ON THE HOURS OF OPERATION?**

NO — the proposal does not set restrictions on hours of operation, meaning that vendors could operate around the clock in residential neighborhoods and business districts.

➡ **WOULD THERE BE RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT VENDORS CAN SELL WHEN THEY SET UP OUTSIDE OF A BUSINESS OR HOME?**

NO — all food and merchandise sales would be permitted under the proposal, including in front of brick and mortar stores offering the same products.

➡ **COULD PROPERTY & BUSINESS OWNERS BE HELD LIABLE FOR FOOD BORNE ILLNESSES AND ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY STREET VENDORS?**

POSSIBLY — the current proposal blurs the line of responsibility over actions that take place in the public right of way. It is much easier to hold brick and mortar businesses, as well as homeowners, responsible than it is to track down a mobile vendor.

➡ **COULD VENDORS OPERATE IN SCHOOLS, PARKS AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATIONS?**

YES — the current proposal does not place any restrictions on where vendors could operate or the goods they sell. For example, food vendors could sell sodas, chips and other unhealthy items to students outside of schools while blocking sidewalks.

➡ **WOULD NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEARING TRASH LEFT BEHIND FROM VENDORS?**

YES — street vendors are ill-equipped to properly dispose of trash, including grease that spills onto sidewalks and into storm drains from grilling. The mobility of vendors lessens their accountability for such cleanup, pushing the burden onto brick and mortar businesses and residents.

➡ **WOULD THERE BE ANY REGULATIONS GOVERNING SMOKE AND ODORS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS?**

NO — the Los Angeles Street Vending Ordinance does not provide any guidelines or plans to manage and regulate the operations of street vendors on a daily basis. Without adequate daily regulation, odors and smoke from street vendors' food carts could permeate the air close to windows and homes in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

➡ **COULD VENDORS OPERATE ON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF YOUR RESIDENCE?**

YES — the current proposal gives vendors a green light to operate anywhere in the City of Los Angeles, including in front of homes.

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The Coalition to Save Our Neighborhoods is in partnership with the Coalition to Save Small Business, which is composed of Los Angeles businesses, community members and organizations that oppose the blanket legalization of street vending.

SIGN THE PETITION

TO SAVE SMALL BUSINESS

The Los Angeles City Council is considering a proposal to legalize sidewalk vending across the entire city. This legalization of sidewalk vending raises questions about health, safety, increased sidewalk congestion and trash.

This proposal is not fair to local business owners who pay taxes, utilities, and abide by the many regulations that go along with running a business. The city already has upwards of 50,000 vendors operating illegally that it is currently unable to regulate, and that number would only grow under the new proposal.

As small businesses in Los Angeles rebound from the recession and new ones open, they are bringing vibrancy and activity to our neighborhoods. Now is not the time to undercut and underbid these businesses.

Join businesses, residents and officials across the city in saying NO to a policy that hurts small businesses and puts the public at risk.

NAME: _____

BUSINESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

For more information: Phone: 323-553-1275 Email: SaveSmallBusinessLA@Gmail.com Visit: [Facebook.com/SaveSmallBusinessLA](https://www.facebook.com/SaveSmallBusinessLA)

The Coalition to Save Small Businesses is composed of Los Angeles businesses, community members and organizations that oppose the blanket legalization of street vending.

